

Las Cruces, NM - Monday, Congressman Harry Teague announced that the Senate's failure to overcome the objections of a single Republican Senator last week means federal funding for highway, transit and highway safety programs in New Mexico stopped today.

"This unexpected loss of funding for critical infrastructure projects in New Mexico has real consequences," said Congressman Harry Teague. "At a time when our economy is struggling, people are losing their jobs, and local businesses are struggling to keep the doors open, it just doesn't make sense that one Senator would make life harder for New Mexicans by filibustering a piece of legislation that simply keeps a commitment to pay the bills."

On Saturday, Congressman Harry Teague, a member of the U.S. House Transportation Committee, held an emergency conference call with officials from New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), local transportation officials, and transportation commissioners to discuss the local impacts of the shut down. According to NMDOT, this week \$30

million in bid letting will be delayed and the state will not be reimbursed \$11.5 million, potentially affecting as many as 63 current road projects. New Mexico will be forced to use state funds to cover the short fall and prevent full program shut down until the filibuster is overcome. However, because state reserves are limited and the state must maintain a positive cash balance in its reserves, it can only do so for a short time.

The current extension of surface transportation authorization under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) expired Sunday. A bill to extend the authority was stopped in the U.S. Senate by the objection of a

single Republican Senator.

The Senate is expected to attempt again to authorize the transportation funding bill this week.

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